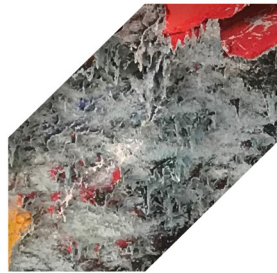
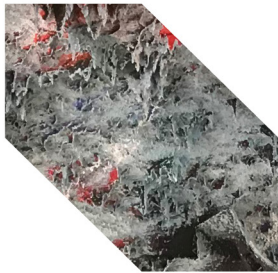


LU  **EMBOURG**

**CANDIDATE FOR THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
2022 - 2024**



Ceiling of the room at the Palais des Nations in Geneva where the Human Rights Council meets
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*Luxembourg at the
Human Rights Council*
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A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO MULTILATERALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS



The promotion and protection of human rights is a priority for the Government of Luxembourg both domestically and in the implementation of its foreign policy in all its aspects.

As a founding member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the European Union, Luxembourg has always been an outspoken advocate of multilateralism and universal values. We have upheld this commitment during our mandate as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council in 2013-2014 and as a proactive observer to the Human Rights Council since its establishment in 2006.

For the first time, Luxembourg is presenting its candidacy to the Human Rights Council, for the 2022-2024 term. In doing so, Luxembourg will continue to honour its commitment to multilateralism and vows to dedicate its tenure as a member of the Human Rights Council to the protection of the rights of all human beings.

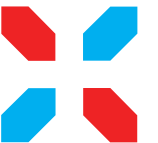
Pledges:

- ✘ **Luxembourg pledges to promote human rights in all international fora.**
- ✘ **Luxembourg pledges to uphold its voluntary contributions to strengthen the United Nations system and multilateralism as a whole.**



The delegation of Luxembourg at the presentation of its national report during the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, Geneva, January 2018
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A CLOSE COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS



Having signed eight of the nine core international human rights instruments and their optional protocols, Luxembourg closely cooperates with the United Nations treaty bodies and actively contributes to strengthening and improving their functioning.

Luxembourg attaches great importance to the independence and integrity of the special procedures. As such, Luxembourg is a regular donor to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to various other United Nations human rights funds and programmes. In 2001, Luxembourg extended a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders.

A staunch advocate of the universality, inalienability, interdependence, and indivisibility of all human rights, Luxembourg engages in good faith with all UN Member States by way of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and endeavours to implement the recommendations it receives from other Member States in this context. At the 2018 UPR, Luxembourg accepted 135 of the 149 recommendations it received. To this end, Luxembourg has been working in particular to strengthen its efforts in tackling all forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia.

At the national level, respect for fundamental rights and the promotion of the rule of law are cornerstones of Luxembourgish society. The Inter-ministerial Human Rights Committee provides an important platform for the Government of Luxembourg regularly to engage with civil society and national human rights institutions.

Pledges:

✘ Luxembourg pledges to support the strengthening and independence of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders.

✘ Luxembourg pledges to hold regular consultations, at the national level, with civil society and national human rights institutions, in particular within the framework of the Inter-ministerial Human Rights Committee.

LUXEMBOURG'S FOUR HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES





Support for the rule of law, civic space and human rights defenders and the fight against impunity

At the Human Rights Council,

Luxembourg advocates for the active participation, without fear of reprisals, of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in the work of the Council.

At the national level, Luxembourg is developing procedures to support and receive human rights defenders on its territory and, as part of its development cooperation policy, also aims to strengthen the capacities of human rights networks and organisations in developing countries.

At the international level,

Luxembourg works towards effective international criminal justice to put an end to impunity for the most serious crimes affecting the international community as a whole, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Contributions: Luxembourg is a regular donor to the Trust Fund for Victims and the Special Fund for Relocations of the International Criminal Court, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon as well as the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Luxembourg also contributes financially to the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

Pledge:

:: Luxembourg pledges to support the active and meaningful participation of civil society and human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in the work of the Human Rights Council.



Meeting between Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, and Nadia Murad, human rights defender and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Luxembourg, March 2019

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Sustainable development and climate action based on human rights

At the Human Rights Council

and in other United Nations fora, Luxembourg's engagement is intertwined with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and aims to protect the different sets of human rights that may be jeopardised as a result of climate change, such as the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the right to food, the right to safe drinking water, and the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Luxembourg is committed to achieving universal health coverage and to adopting an approach that is guided by solidarity, multilateral cooperation, and adherence to the rule of law in responding to global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the national level, Luxembourg continues to implement the commitments made in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda with the aim of reaching net zero emissions by 2050. Human rights equally figure at the heart of Luxembourg's development cooperation policy.

At the international level,

Luxembourg pursues an ambitious climate action policy, which underscores the inextricable link between sustainable development, the fight against climate change, and the respect for human rights on a global scale. Luxembourg follows a rights-based approach to development, which recognises the importance of the right to development.

Contributions: Since 2000, Luxembourg has exceeded every year the United Nations target to allocate a minimum of 0.7% of its gross national income (GNI) to official development assistance (ODA). In 2019, Luxembourg ranked first globally by dedicating 1.05% of its GNI to ODA.

Luxembourg also continues to increase the financial resources allocated to the fight against the negative impacts of climate change, in line with an inclusive approach that encompasses the principle of "leaving no one behind".

Pledge:

✘ **Luxembourg pledges to continue to meet the United Nations target and to allocate 1% of its gross national income to official development assistance.**



*AgriFed, a climate change-resilient agriculture project in Mali, implemented by UN Women and supported by Luxembourg, September 2018
© UN Women*

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Gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination

At the Human Rights Council and in other United Nations fora, Luxembourg is firmly committed to the empowerment of all women and girls, their socioeconomic integration as well as the realisation of their right to education and their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Further, Luxembourg is committed to tackling all forms of gender-based discrimination and to protecting the rights of LGBTI persons. Luxembourg fully supports the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

At the national level, the Government of Luxembourg has decided to adopt a feminist foreign policy with the aim of promoting the equality between women and men, putting an emphasis on human rights and the representation and participation of women at all levels of society. Luxembourg equally adopted a national action plan on "Women and Peace and Security" for 2018-2023 to implement Security Council resolution 1325. In 2018, the Government, in consultation with civil society, also adopted a national action plan to promote the rights of LGBTI persons.

At the international level, Luxembourg has since 2018 been a member of the intergovernmental, cross-regional initiative "Equal Rights Coalition" (ERC), which seeks to advance the rights of LGBTI persons.

Contributions: Our commitment is evidenced by the fact that Luxembourg is ranking among the top 20 donors in absolute terms to UN Women. Luxembourg also supports the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

Pledge:

- ✘ **Luxembourg pledges to protect the universality, inalienability, interdependence and indivisibility of human rights for all, to promote gender equality and to fight against all forms of discrimination.**



The Chamber of Deputies lit up in rainbow colors to celebrate Pride Week, Luxembourg, July 2020
© Rosa Lëtzebuerg

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The protection and promotion of the rights of the child

At the Human Rights Council and in other United Nations fora, Luxembourg is committed to ensuring that the voices and needs of children are actively taken into account in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. As Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Children and the SDGs, Luxembourg, along with Bulgaria and Jamaica, spearheaded the adoption of the global pledge "For every child, every right", which has garnered the support of 110 UN Member States, as well as the joint statement "Protect our children" in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been endorsed by 172 UN Member States and Permanent Observers.

At the national level, Luxembourg has bolstered the resources for and independence of its child rights defender, who is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the national level. Luxembourg is also in the process of reforming its youth protection law in consultation with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in order to ensure a better understanding of the best interests of the child in procedures applied to minors.

At the international level, the defence and promotion of the rights of the child is a key priority for Luxembourg, as evidenced by its leading role in the adoption of Security Council resolution 2143 on children and armed conflict, during its mandate on the Security Council in 2013-2014, and by Luxembourg's support for the children of migrants, in line with its overall commitment to the human rights of migrants and refugees within the framework of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

Contributions: Luxembourg continues to support the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict through regular voluntary contributions and, since 2013, has been involved in the "No Lost Generation" initiative launched by UNICEF to mitigate the effects of the Syrian conflict on the education of children in Syria and Syrian refugee children in the region.

Pledge:

∴ Luxembourg pledges to continue to work systematically for the rights of the child in all international fora.

Inauguration of a temporary education center for Syrian refugee children in Turkey, established by UNICEF and financed by Luxembourg, March 2015
© UNICEF



COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 2022-2024 MANDATE

If presented with the honour of being elected, for the first time in its history, to the Human Rights Council by the United Nations General Assembly during its 76th session in 2021, Luxembourg will endeavour to make a useful and active contribution to the work of the Council during the 2022-2024 term, particularly in its four priority areas: support for the rule of law, civic space and human rights defenders and the fight against impunity; sustainable development and climate action based on human rights; gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination; and the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

Luxembourg is committed to protecting and promoting the rights of all human beings within the framework of effective multilateralism, based on the rule of law and the sovereign equality of all States, bearing in mind the purpose enshrined 75 years ago in article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations: "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion".



LUXEMBOURG'S FOUR HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES



1. Support for the rule of law, civic space and human rights defenders and the fight against impunity



2. Sustainable development and climate action based on human rights



3. Gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination

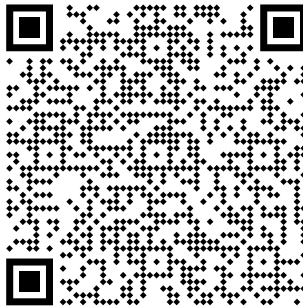


4. The protection and promotion of the rights of the child

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